

THE NUR AFSHAN

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Sermon of Dr. Henry J. Van Dyke, late Moderator of the General Assembly of the American Presbyterian Church, held at Los Angeles, California, contains the following comprehensive statement as to the Religion of Jesus Christ as a religion of Happiness:—

"In the wish for happiness, all men are strangely alike. In their views of it, and in their ways of seeking it, they are singularly different. If we acknowledge Christ as our Master and Lord, there are two questions that we must ask of him. First, is it right to wish to be happy? Second, what are the chief conditions on which the fulfilment of that wish depends?"

I. The desire of happiness is natural. It is the law of life itself that every being seeks and strives toward the perfection of its kind, and a true harmony with its environment.

Now what does Christ say in regard to this natural human wish? Does he say that it is an illusion? Does he condemn and deny it? Would he have accepted Goethe's definition: "Religion is renunciation?"

Surely such a notion is far from the spirit of Jesus. There is nothing of the hardness of Stoicism, the coldness of Buddhism, in Christ's Gospel. It is humane, sympathetic, consoling. Unrest and weariness, the fever of passion and the chill of despair, soul-solitude and heart-trouble, are the very things that he comes to cure. He begins his great discourse with series of beatitudes. "Blessed" is the word, "Happy" is the meaning. Nine times he rings the changes on that word, like a silver bell sounding from the campanile of his fair temple on the mountain-side, calling all who long for happiness to come to him and find rest for their souls.

If we accept his teaching, we must believe that men are not wrong in wishing for joy, but wrong in their way of seeking it. Earthly happiness—pleasure that belongs to the senses and perished with them—is a dream and a delusion. But happiness on earth—spiritual joy, blossoming here, fruiting hereafter—is a reality.

If we come to Christ for this kind of happiness, he tells us four great secrets in regard to it.

1. It is inward and not outward; and so it does not depend on what we have but on what we are.

2. It is not to be found by direct seeking, but by setting our faces towards the thing from which it flows; and so we must climb the mount if we would see the

vision; we must tune the instrument if we would hear the music.

3. It is not solitary, but social; and so we can never have it without sharing it.

4. It is the result of God's will for us and not of our wills for ourselves; and so we can only find it by giving ourselves up in submission and obedience to the control of God.

This is the divine doctrine of happiness as Christ taught it by his life and with his lips. If we want to put into a single phrase, I know not where we shall find a more perfect utterance than in the words which our Church has taught us in childhood—words so strong, so noble, so cheerful that they summon the heart of manhood like marching music: "Man's chief end is to glory God and to enjoy him forever."

Many of our readers will receive the following information, quoted from the *C. & M. Gazette*, with unusual interest. The Ludhiana and Ferozepore Railway project has hung in the air for a long time. As a commercial and political measure, this road is most important. What effect its construction will have upon Ludhiana itself will depend a great deal upon what Ludhiana can do to adapt itself to the new conditions. What we want here is enterprise to establish factories and so make ourselves a commercial centre. What with the Main line of the N. W. Ry, the Ludhiana Dhuri Jukkal line and the Ludhiana Ferozepore and McLeod Ganj Railway we should be in touch with all the centres of trade north, south, east and west.

The *C. & M. Gazette's* note is as follows:

"The report of the Southern Punjab Railway Company, Limited, for the half year ended December 31st last shows that the total net revenue (including £6,277 brought forward from the previous half year) was £25,267. After reserving £1,236 on account of the Secretary of State's share of surplus profits, there remains available £24,031. Of this it is proposed to absorb £19,320 in payment of a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent per annum. The report, which was to be submitted to a general meeting of shareholders at the London offices on June 17th, is accompanied by a sketch map of the line proposed to be constructed from McLeodganj through Fazilka to Ferozepore and Ludhiana. The directors recommended the construc-

tion of the line, and there is no reason to suppose that the general meeting would reject the proposal. The new line, which will be 153 miles long, will run through a well cultivated and well populated country, watered by inundation from the Sutlej and also by irrigation. It will run from McLeodgunge (about 70 miles west of Bhatinda) along the south bank of the Sutlej as far as Ferozepore. Thence it will go almost at a right angle to Ludhiana."

It is now seriously proposed to establish a theological Department in connection with the Aligarh College. Will this move be followed by a similar department in the D. A. V. College at Lahore, the Hindu College at Benares and the Christian Colleges of Lahore, Allahabad and Lucknow? If the plan meditates merely a systematic course of instruction of a positive character along the lines of the Syed Ahmad interpretation of the Qurán, the opposition will be limited to the Muslim Community. But will it be possible so to limit it? If not, then the physical training of athletes and the friendly struggles with bat and ball may be exchanged for the intellectual training of champions of the faiths of India and so the universities may become the great battle grounds of religion.

Current Thought and Incident.

"WHAT SAW THEY IN THINE HOUSE?"

When the long-buried city of Pompeii began to be uncovered, men were introduced into the very scenes of its home and business-life in the days of its glory. The houses were opened to view, and pictures and utensils and statuary and architecture and hundreds of other things disclosed the character and life of the people. And the stranger now visiting the unburied city, and walking the street, and going into the houses and shops and forums and temples and theatres, which were crowded with a busy, active, pleasure-seeking population, can see for himself just how they lived, and what was the nature of their pursuits. And it is a deeply impressive lesson to meditate upon—how after lying eighteen centuries in the grave these things are disclosed to us, and especially how among the freshest of the things preserved are numerous evidences of the sensual and vicious pleasures in which the people indulged. The very works of art which ministered to their vices now rise from their graves to testify against them. What was done in their houses is now brought to the light of day.

Suppose, now, that our home-life could be put into some permanent form, and then our home should be buried by a similar catastrophe, and at the end of eighteen centuries be brought to light. What would they disclose to curious investigators of that day? If, at the great judgment, when the world has risen from the grave, there shall be a revelation of all secrets, and an exact picture of our homes as they are at present what shall they see as they gaze upon it? What does God see there now?

Christian Standard.

TRACT NO 4.

How Shopkeepers and Manufacturers Can Help to Prevent the Spread of Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis is the most prevalent disease of civilized life. It causes over one hundred thousand deaths a year in the United States alone. One of our fellow citizens dies of it, on an average every five minutes; and for every one that dies there is untold suffering and inexpressible sorrow and heartache. What a terrible plague. "What an affliction of our people." But the plague has existed from time immemorial and we have grown hardhearted. We have become stoics in the face of an enemy whom we did not know how to conquer.

Tuberculosis is most generally recognized by the people under the form of consumption. It however also manifests itself under many other forms, chiefly marasmus, white swelling, scrofula, lupus, meningitis and peritonitis. Its great prevalence has earned for it the sobriquet "Great white plague."

Science has at last discovered the secret which makes it possible to abate this decimating pest. Tuberculosis can be stamped out in a comparatively short time by the practical application of the knowledge which has been obtained about the disease within the last few years. It is now demonstrable that the disease is contagious and consequently preventable. The contagium resides in the broken down tissue given off by a tubercular subject in the form of expectoration or discharge and is strictly confined to it. Prompt sterilization of such infectious matter, before it can gain entrance into the bodies of the healthy is all that is necessary for the prevention of tuberculosis.

In practical every-day life the best way to guard against the spread of tuberculosis is to insist that all persons who have or may have tuberculosis of the lungs spit into spittoons or spitcups and wipe their mouths with paper handkerchiefs. The use of linen or silk handkerchiefs or of cloths of any material as receptacles for expectoration or for wiping the mouth after expectoration, is a most pernicious practice and should be discouraged and prohibited as far as possible. The reason why this practice is so fraught with danger is because every time the handkerchief or cloth is used the dried infectious particles which it already contains are set free into the air. These may not only reinfect the patient but may infect the persons with whom he comes in contact.

Owing to the tedious and long drawn out course of tuberculosis the majority of persons suffering from it are compelled to earn their living during the active stage of the disease. Consumptives are therefore to be found in all our places of industry, in our stores, in our factories, laundries, restaurants in short everywhere where human effort ministers to the wants of others. In all such places their presence, unless precautions are taken, is a source of danger to fellow employees and to the public at large.

What is the remedy? At first blush it appears so harsh as to be forbidding. It is not so however. In the first place the danger can be much lessened by the enforcement in workshops and stores of certain simple rules. Employees should be forbidden to expectorate anywhere except into spittoons. In order that such a rule can be enforced stationary spittoons should be placed where they can be conveniently used by the employees and yet not be seen by the public. In stores such spittoons might be placed in closets or boxes. For wiping the mouth paper napkins should be supplied. This trifling precautionary

measure would almost do away with the danger of spreading the disease among fellow employees and customers.

A more efficient and more humane preventive measure, however, would be some provision for the rational treatment of all consumptive employees. A person suffering from typhoid fever or some other severe illness is promptly removed to a hospital and everyone's charity, the City and State included, is enlisted to maintain him there until he is well or dies. Why should not the same be done for a person suffering from tuberculosis? All that is necessary is to arouse the public conscience to a full recognition of the duty involved and it will be done. A fair proportion of consumptives could be cured and restored to lives of usefulness by prompt and early treatment in a properly equipped hospital. The majority of them would no doubt die, but the prevention of spread of the disease among their fellow employees and the public would be accomplished by their removal to a hospital, and they would at least be humanely cared for during their illness. Employers of course cannot do this work by themselves, but they can help do it.

Organized effort is being made to bring relief to this large class of sufferers and to prevent the extension of the disease. Let every employer contribute his mite to the movement by giving intelligent, thoughtful consideration to how he can lessen the evil among his own employees and the aggregate result will be most gratifying. The Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis will always be glad to cooperate with employers either by supplying tracts free of charge or giving information on any subject desired.

YUNG LU LATE PRIME MINISTER OF CHINA.

Young Lu, by means of his influence over the Empress Dowager, was the virtual ruler of at least one fourth of the human race, yet so firmly settled is the machinery of government in China, that his death will probably cause only a passing commotion at the court, which will expend itself without affecting at all the Empire outside of the Court.

One European nation, at least, has lost a friend (Russia), but that China has lost anything by the death of Yung Lu it would be very hard to prove.

To his malign influence were mainly due the troubles of 1900, and it has been a grave question whether he did not have an idea of making another attempt to drive out the foreigners from North China. His death, at any rate has done much to decrease the probability of another such attempt being made in the near future.

Yung Lu came of a Manchu family and was born about 1833, so that he was in his sixty-fifth year at the time of his death.

He was not, as has been reported, a nephew of the Empress Dowager, but the son of a near cousin. Until past his thirtieth year he had a somewhat precarious political existence in Peking and was generally in poor circumstances, but as the present Empress Dowager, in the seventies, consolidated her power by gradually effacing her senior, the Eastern Empress, Yung Lu began to come to the front, so that by 1878 he had filled the important posts of President of the Board of Revenue, Commander-in-Chief of the Peking Gendarmerie, Member of the Board of Controllers, and General of the Imperial Household Department. His ostentation and love of fine horses and clothes, made him an object of suspicion and dislike to

Prince Chun, the father of the present Emperor; and to conciliate the Prince he resigned his offices, a step which did not save him in the early part of 1880 from public degradation. Gradually, however, he regained the favor of his Imperial mistress and in March, 1887, was appointed Deputy Lieutenant-General of Mogol Border Blue Banner Corps, rising to be Tartar General of Hsian in 1891; Commander-in-Chief of the Peking Gendarmerie; Lieutenant-General of the Manchu White Banner Corps; Minister of the Tsung-li Yamen in 1894; President of the Board of War in 1895; Assistant Grand Secretary in 1896; Grand Secretary and Controller of the Board of Revenue, and Viceroy of Chili Province in 1898.

It will be remembered how within three months of Yung Lu's appointment as Viceroy of Chili, the Emperor sent Ten Sze-tung (afterwards one of the six martyrs to reform), with the fatal message to Yuan Shih-Kai, ordering the latter to kill Yung Lu, and march up to Peking to the Emperor's assistance; how Yuan Shih-Kai betrayed his Emperor, divulged his plans to Yung Lu and the Empress Dowager, and brought on the Coup d'etat (the imprisonment and virtual deposing of the Emperor), in the fall of 1893.

It was immediately after that Yung Lu was made a Grand Councillor and Generalissimo of the Northern Armies of China, and it was then that the preparations began for the plot which culminated in the tragedy of 1900.

Young Lu was commander-in-chief of the troops in Peking at the time of the siege of the legations of all the great Powers, and when their Ministers were relieved by their allied armies from the siege of his 100,000 troops and Boxers, he escorted his Imperial mistress to her city of refuge, Hsian, the capital of Sheng Si Province.

When the Court returned to Peking he hung back, uncertain what fate the allies designed for him, but he was spared on the intercession of Prince Ching and Earl Li Hung-Chang, who first, it is said, gained over the Russian Minister. Earl Li afterward remarked to a foreigner, that he was greatly surprised that the allies spared Yung Lu, but that being his friend, he could not but intercede for him.

Yung Lu rapidly rose to be the chief power in Peking. It will not be forgotten how Lung Fu-hsiang wrote complaining, that he (Lung Fu-hsiang), had only acted under Yung Lu's orders, yet the former General Lung was exiled by order of the allies with a price on his head, while the other, Yung Lu, by the support of the allies, was the greatest man in China.

When Li Hung Chang died, Yung Lu was made, in Li's place Senior Guardian of the Heir-apparent, and Senior Grand Secretary over and above all the other offices mentioned above.

Yung Lu's success in marrying his daughter last year to Prince Chun, the young brother of the Emperor, the probable Emperor of China, was, as it has turned out, the crowning act of his remarkable career.

Londoner—In one word, when are you going to pay your arrears?

Hard-up Author—I will satisfy your demands as soon as I receive the money which the publisher will pay me if he accept the novel I am going to send him as soon as the work is finished which I am about to commence when I have found a suitable subject and the necessary inspiration.

TRIAL OF A NEW AIR-SHIP.

Notwithstanding the disasters which occurred last year in connection with the experiments with navigable balloons, there are still, writes the *Standard's* Paris correspondent, a number of enthusiasts who are building in the vicinity of the capital steerable balloons with which they hope to solve the problem of aerial navigation. M. Santos Dumont has four air-ships on the stocks and on May 8 he made his first experiment with his balloon number ten, which though almost a toy when compared with the air-ship of Severo and De Bratsky, nevertheless promises to give interesting results. M. Henry Deutsch has a steerable balloon, the *Ville de Paris*, nearly completed, and two Brazilian gentlemen are also building an airship, to be called the *Santa Cruz* at the Aero Club's Park.

In the meantime, the airship which the Brothers Debaudy built at Missions near Mantes last Autumn, on May, 8, made its first prolonged trip this season, and accomplished what is probably the most remarkable performance which has yet been completed by a navigable balloon. It was able to cover a distance of 37 kilometres or 23 miles in one hour and thirty-six minutes, whereas M. Santos-Dumont's feat for the Deutsch Prize was a run of eleven and a-half kilometres within half an hour. The details of to-day's ascent are given in a report which M. Juchmes, the chief aeronaut of the Labaudy balloon, has drawn up. He says:—

"I left Moissons with the engineer, Ray, and one hundred and twenty kilogrammes of ballast on board. The heavy rain which had been falling increased the weight of the balloon by ninety kilogrammes. With the screws making eight hundred revolutions a minute, we proceeded to Mantes, entering the town by the Western side and after circling right round the Cathedral, we then proceeded to Limay and next came back to Mantes Station. At this point the wind, which was blowing in our teeth, increased at an altitude of two hundred and fifty metres, or eight hundred and twenty feet. I set the screws working at a thousand revolutions, and was easily able to make headway against the wind, and I then steered for the Rosny Castle. When I arrived above the Park, I manoeuvred in every direction, the balloon obeying its rudder perfectly. I then proceeded to the shed at Moissons, and came down at the agreed spot before the doors, the air ship being then housed without difficulty. To sum up I left at six minutes to nine and alighted at half-past ten, having accomplished a distance of 37 kilometres, and having carried out evolutions at Limay, Mantes and Rosny. The maximum altitude attained was 300 metres, which was reached when the balloon dried after the rain had ceased. The ventilator from this moment worked perfectly."

The chief characteristics of this remarkable air ship are as follow: Length, 56 metres; capacity, 2284 cubic metres; capacity of minor bag filled with air to compensate variations in the volume of the hydrogen, 311 cubic metres; diameter of the two steel screws, two metres 80 centimetres; area of the rudder, nine square metres; weight of the balloon, when inflated with hydrogen, and two passengers on board, 2960 kilogrammes. The motive power is derived from a 40-horse power Mercedes motor which only weighs 400 kilogrammes or ten kilogrammes per horse power. The weight of the steam motor which Henry Giffard used when he built his first steerable balloon in 1852, was equal to 50 kilogrammes per horse power. The balloon which the Brothers Lebaudy have built has been most carefully constructed. It is certainly the best of the

steerable balloons which has been seen in France experiments which are to include a trip from Moissons to Paris and back, a distance of nearly 100 kilometres, at an early date will be awaited with very considerable interest

C. & M. Gazette.

SUNFLOWERS AND MALARIA.

Years ago, the Mississippi Valley was one of the most unhealthy valleys for yellow fever of all the low-lying districts of the Southern States. Men had ague every other day; they saturated themselves with quinine. The residents along the river banks were conspicuous for their ghastly, yellow looks, far worse than anything seen in Delagoa Bay in the worst season. The Mississippi River at certain seasons overflows, bringing down masses of black miasmatic mud, depositing the same on the banks; then everybody goes down with yellow fever, which it is impossible to shake off. At last the cultivation of Sunflowers was adopted by law, with the result that the fever has been gradually conquered, and is now a scourge of the past. Owing to the profitable nature of Sunflower-cultivation, immense paper-mills have sprung up, utilising the fibre, etc, for many trade purposes.

The Sunflower-plant comes originally from Mexico; its reputation is world-wide. Its cultivation, when grown on a large scale, is much the same as that for mealies. By planting 5lb. weight of seed to the acre—broadcast or ridge, 18 cwt. of good clean seed will return in four months, with ordinary cultivation on average land; from this 300lbs. of oil can be pressed, or 18 per cent, of the weight harvest.

On average land the crop is 50 bushels to the acre, averaging 1 gallon of oil to each bushels yielded. In the fertile valleys around Barborton, from 15 to 20 per cent can be added. Samples of seed-crowns were exhibited at Barborton in 1894, measured 21 inches across.

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The stalk produces fibre as fine as silk and as coarse as flax, as required, in large quantities. Since rags have become scarce, the fibre is used for paper-making. When the oil is extracted from the best seeds, the residue, together with the 80 per cent. above mentioned, is again crushed into mash oilcake, which sheep, pigs, pigeons, poultry, and horses will fatten on rapidly. The green leaves when ripe make a fine fodder, if mixed with bran, for cows. Feeding fowls on bruised Sunflower-seed is said to increase their laying powers. The pith is used by surgeons, also the oil for demulcent and soothing purposes.

In *Tropical Cultivation*, Ceylon, 1889, we read: "In swampy places, where intermittent fevers are common, the cultivation of Sunflowers, on a large scale has been found effectual in remedying, and in some cases, altogether destroying the fevers peculiar to marshy districts in tropical climes."

The warm, sheltered sub-tropical climate of De Kasp Valley, with its much maligned malarial reputation, is a most suitable field for this neglected produce, of the very first commercial importance to the Government, the people, and the country.—*Journal of the Society of Arts.*

—The fossil expedition sent out by the American Museum discovered one of the largest skeletons of extinct mammoths ever found in America. The recent find of the almost complete remains of a marine lizard known as *brontasaurus* eclipses all others in its scientific value. This giant creature's body in life measured 70 feet, and stood about 20 feet high, twice the height of an elephant. Its footprints cover a square yard, and its ribs measure 6 feet.

Not Lost.

The kindly plans devised for other's good,
So seldom guessed, so little understood
The quiet, steadfast love that strove to win
Some wanderer from the woful ways of sin—
Are never lost. Anon.

The seed sown in the ground contains in itself the future harvest. The harvest is but the development of the germ of life in the seed. A holy act strengthens the inward holiness. It is a seed of life growing into more life.—F. W. Robertson.

Truth is eclipsed often and it sets for a night; but never is it turned aside from its eternal path.—Ware.

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SATISFIED.

I cannot say.
Beneath the presence of life's cares to-day,
I joy in these,
But I can say
That I would rather walk the rugged way
If Him it please.

I cannot feel
That all is well when darkening clouds conceal
The shining sun;
But then I know
God lives and loves—can say, since it is so,
"Thy will be done."

I do not see
Why God should e'er permit some things to be
When He is love;
But I can see,
Though often dimmed through mystery,
His hand above.

I cannot speak
In happy tone—the tear-drops on my cheek
Show I am said;
But I can speak
Of grace to suffer with submission meek
Until made glad.

I do not look
Upon the present, nor in nature's book,
To read my fate;
But I do look
For promised blessings in God's Holy Book,
And I can wait

I may not try
To keep the hot tears back, but hush the sigh,
It might have been;
And try to still
All rising murmurs, and to God's sweet will
Respond, "Amen!"

—New York Tribune.

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FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.**THE MULLAH'S PRISONERS.**

A despatch from General Manning says that deserters deny that there are any white prisoners in the Mullah's camp.

ABYSSINIAN SUCCESS.

Colonel Rochfort wires from Biyaado on the 6th instant, that the Abyssinians after forced marches surprised the Mullah's horse and spearmen at Jeyd on the 31st May, and that after a slight resistance the horse fled. The Mullah's uncle and 1,000 spearmen are reported to have been killed, and all his live-stock, including 1,000 camels, captured.

In consequence of the reverse, the Mullah with his footmen moved to Gumbarra. The Abyssinians have closed to the Mullah the waterholes south of the Gelogubi-Galadi line.

MEETING OF UNIONIST OPPOSERS.

London, July 2.

Fifty-four members were present at yesterday's meeting of Unionist members of the House of Commons opposed to Protection.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach declared that it was their duty to save the Party from the crushing defeat which was inevitable if it was committed to taxation of food.

Lord Goschen, who was also present, said that these most dangerous fiscal proposals must be resisted. Mr. Chamberlain had said that it would be a big fight, and if so, the veterans must take their place, and he himself would do what he could to help the cause.

COUNTER-CHARGES.

London, June 3.

The Porte denies the Bulgarian allegations regarding concentration of troops, and says that the renewed activity of the revolutionaries necessitates the continuous movement of troops to the Frontier districts.

Bulgaria, replying to the denial, charges the Porte with attempting to deceive the public by false reports regarding the intentions of Bulgaria. The latter has forbidden the export of horses and mules.

RECENT NEWS FROM DAMOT.

A Somali runner brought in letters from Damot and Galkaya on the 18th, and states that the enemy fired a good deal last week into the defences there, but only a few shots hit the zariba, the enemy not venturing nearer than several hundred yards, and at no time showing a desire to make a determined attack.

News from Burao and Garrero also reports the presence of raiding parties, who could easily be seen in the vicinity of those two posts, as also round about Olsau and Shimbiri Birri.

ATTITUDE OF THE CONSERVATIVES.

London, July 4.

Mr. Wyndham, speaking at a Conservative banquet in London, said that the Cabinet was united in considering that a review of the fiscal system was necessary and he believed, were supported therein by the whole Conservative Party.

THE POWERS ON RUSSIAN TACTICS.

London, July 4.

The Standard says that symptoms of a very serious crisis in the foreign relations of Russia are steadily accumulating. Russian statesmen, it says, ought to see that Britain, Japan and the United States are becoming tired of evasions and manœuvres in reference to Manchuria which have been so indecently prolonged. Russians are now confronted with the alternative of a perilous defiance or an undignified surrender.

ILLNESS CONFIRMED.

The illness of the Pope is confirmed in this morning's bulletin, which says that he is suffering from senile pulmonary hepatiza-

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tion. His condition is serious in view of his age, though not alarming.

Prayers were offered in the churches to-day.

According to this afternoon's report the illness tend to develope.

London, July 5.

The new American Pacific cable connecting the United States with the Philippines via Honolulu and Guam has been opened. Mr. Mackay, the President of the Cable Company, sent a message round the world in ten minutes.

M. LOUBET'S VISIT.

London, July 6.

All the papers have most cordial articles on M. Loubet's visit, and are unanimous in their opinion that the visit will consummate what the King's journey to Paris commenced, and complete a rapprochement which must henceforth be regarded as one of the accomplished governing facts in European situation.

INCREASED WEAKNESS.

London, July 6.

Last evening's bulletins regarding the Pope state that weakness has increased slightly since the morning. The pulmonary conditions are unchanged; the breathing is somewhat rapid, and the pulse weaker.

TURKISH DENIAL OF CHARGES.

London, July 6.

The Porte on Sunday sent a circular telegram to the Powers repudiating the Bulgarian charges of concentration of Turkish troops at strategic points on the frontier.

AN OPERATION.

The Pope underwent a slight operation, puncture of the pleura, to-day to remove oppression in breathing. A quantity of liquid was withdrawn. The operation will probably prolong his life some hours.

SPEECHES OF MUTUAL GOODWILL.

London, July 7.

At the banquet in Buckingham Palace last night to President Loubet, the King, in proposing the toast of his guest, said: "The President's reception by all classes of our population showed their really friendly sentiments towards France, which is the nearest country to England and consequently ought to be our best neighbour."

M. Loubet replied that he was certain that the King's visit to Paris would have the happiest effects and serve to tighten the relations between the two nations, and thus guarantee the peace of the world.

SETTLEMENT OF DIFFICULTIES.

The *Daily Telegraph* says that it is no secret that M. Delcasse has come with the President in the hope of settling a few outstanding difficulties between the two countries.

The *Standard* says that M. Delcasse, Lord Salisbury and Lord Lansdowne have brought France and England as close together politically as is possible without a formal alliance.

Later.

COLLAPSE OF THE "BULL" CLIQUE.

London, July 7.

The inflated prices ruling in the American cotton market have collapsed, and there was almost a panic in New York and New Orleans yesterday. The "bull" clique having suspended their aggressive buying tactics, there was a rush to unload, and over 800,000 bales changed hands.

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Notice.

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